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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(By Dr. J. C. Mahr.)

There are six contagious diseases that are considered and spoken of as "children's diseases." The six are as follows:

- First—Measles.
- Second—Scarlet Fever.
- Third—Whooping Cough.
- Fourth, Mumps.
- Fifth—Chicken-pox.
- Sixth—German Measles.

Of these the first three are of special importance, that are always dangerous and sometimes fatal. All of them are highly contagious. It is rare for them to occur with a child under six months. From six months to five years they occur very frequently, and are less common after the tenth year. It must not be supposed that children are especially susceptible to these children's diseases. All persons may be attacked when first exposed, no matter what age. In early life children are very susceptible to disease for the reason that their powers of resistance are not as great as the power of resistance of adults, and again, adults have acquired immunity from these diseases because of attacks in early childhood.

These children's diseases are prevalent at all times. Nearly everyone has measles and whooping cough. About one-half the population escape scarlet fever. Although these affections are commonly considered mild, there are many fatal cases. These diseases are caused, beyond doubt, by some form of micro-organisms, and the principle source of infection occurs through the nasal passages and through the throat. The cough spray and talk spray and the discharges of the nose are infectious. This is true of measles and whooping cough, and of scarlet fever to a great extent, although scarlet fever epidemics sometime arise through milk contaminated by particles of peeling skin, and again by fomites carried by books, linen, toys and bed clothing.

Of these six diseases measles and whooping cough are the most contagious. Whooping cough is extremely contagious. Measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough are frequently followed by complications that do great injury. Whooping cough is characterized by a severe general catarrh of the air passages. This renders such complications as bronchopneumonia and catarrh-pneumonia very easy. With whooping cough severe various nervous disturbances follow such as the following indicate. The child is easily frightened; is afraid of the dark and is even afraid to be alone in a room during the day time. He is easily upset, and may show by a twitching of the eyes that his nervous system is not in a state of equilibrium. These may follow even mild attacks of diseases, and it may be a number of months or even years, before the child recovers its normal condition.

Measles is frequently complicated

with diseases of the eye, the ear, bronchitis, which is frequently so severe that it becomes a forerunner of broncho-pneumonia, and oftentimes of tuberculosis.

In scarlet fever the complications are more or less serious in about one-fourth of all cases. There is little danger of eye trouble, but the affections of the ear are common, as are also rheumatism and kidney diseases.

With the exception of whooping cough we have no antitoxin, or serum, that is recommended, either in the way of treatment or as a preventive. With whooping cough the remedy has many friends, and a few who have tried it are inclined to be doubtful.

Most of these children's diseases are spread through contact of child with child in school, at children's parties, picture shows, etc. Compulsory attendance at school often means compulsory exposure to disease. Is it of the greatest consequence that parents and school authorities understand fully their own responsibility. All children showing acute catarrhal symptoms should be excused until they present a physician's certificate to the effect that there is no danger in allowing them to be in school. Even while at home this afflicted member of the family should be kept to himself if it is possible to do so. The parent should see that his child does not attend school while suffering from an acute cold.

While we have not mentioned diphtheria with these other diseases, yet diphtheria presents some of these symptoms mentioned among its early symptoms. At the same time it can be contracted by coming in contact with another child with the disease, or by coming in contact and inhaling, or breathing, their cough spray, or drinking from the same cup, or using the same lead pencil and such other articles as may come in contact with their mouth, or nose, and throat secretions. It is nearly an impossibility for health officers to control measles, whooping cough, and scarlet fever, yet much can be done if all parents and all principals and teachers can be made aware to the danger from these diseases. If this can be done their prevalence will be greatly diminished and fully half the deaths that occur would be avoided. For them to do their duty it is necessary that all who are authority

should contribute their aid in making such efforts a success.

FARM NOTES.

Young pigs need dry, clean quarters. The farrowing sows should have dry, clean pens, preferably with board floors, and very little bedding. Many more young pigs are overlaid and smothered by their mothers, through getting tangled up in the bedding, than are injured by lack of bedding. A very little, short, dry bedding, like cottonseed hulls or cut straw, and a fender around the outside about six inches from the floor and eight inches from the wall, will save lots of young pigs.

With feed scarce and high priced, there is a great temptation to turn the livestock on pasture at the earliest possible time, but this is not good for the pastures. Pasture plants grow through the agency of their leaves or green parts, as well as through their roots, and if the leaves or green parts are kept eaten off close to the ground all the time, less growth—less feed—is made.

Be fair to the incubator. Do not complain or censure the manufacturer for a poor hatch until you give his machine a square deal. Poor hatches, we have found from experience, are usually the result of our own carelessness. Sometimes the eggs are at fault, but oftener it is lack of attention to the incubator. Follow instructions carefully, then if you have a poor hatch you can find the reason.

Encourage your children to take an interest in the garden and the orchard. Gardening and orcharding are the refined of agriculture and they appeal to young people more than ordinary work in the field. By giving the children a garden you may start them into some special line of horticulture that will mean fame and honor to them.

TIME TO PLANT CORN.

Early planting of corn is desirable, provided the soil is in the proper condition. Corn is a very sensitive plant as regards cold, heat, drought and insect depredations. It is essential that corn be given a favorable start so it may have a fair chance should drought come, which often does.

Corn responds readily to favorable conditions and for this reason it is a good crop upon which to test the productive capacity of soils. When the soil is described as being capable of producing and does produce 20 bushels, 30 bushels or even 50 bushels of corn per acre an ordinary year it gives a fair idea of the fertility of the soil. With such information one may use fertilizers or manure with greater intelligence.

But early planting is not desirable if conditions are unfavorable. On cold, wet soils where frost lingers or where the drought is expected exceptionally early it may be advisable to plant early. In some sections May

or even June planting may be better than earlier. Drouth for a few weeks when corn is young may be an advantage, provided the soil is low and wet and that timely rains come later. Sometimes, too, bud worms or other pests may be "taken advantage of" by late planting, in which event it may be worth while to plant late.

It is well to remember that when corn is once "stunted" it seldom produces a satisfactory yield. This being true, it is important to do whatever one may to keep the young plants growing. It may be and often is desirable to plant over when cold and other factors retard and stunt the early planting.

The only safe way to determine when to plant is to keep records for a number of years. This will give a fair idea as to the best time to plant, but it will not be infallible, as the seasons differ so widely that they make it necessary to deviate.

Early planting often suits the plan of farm management, as it will permit one to adapt the other crops in a measure to the corn crop. So when cultivation is demanded other crops will not interfere with corn cultivation.

POULTRY NOTES.

(By Isaac Motes.)

Never mix breeds. Produce infertile eggs. Never keep eggs in a damp place. See that the nests are kept clean. Have clean, comfortable houses for your hens.

Dirty eggs lose 5 million dollars to poultrymen every year.

Keep your customers satisfied, and your profits will increase.

Provide a nest for every four hens. Don't make your hens lay in the weeds.

Feed meat scraps in winter as a substitute for the grubs a hen gets in summer.

Do not allow your hens to be disturbed. Do not allow strangers or dogs to molest them.

Feed a properly balanced ration, prepared to give the hens the necessary material for living and laying.

Let the last feed you give your chickens at night be a generous one. They should go to roost with full crops.

Keep in touch with the United States department of agriculture and your state experiment station. Send for bulletins on poultry and egg production.

If you are just embarking in the poultry business start in a small way, and learn the business thoroughly before investing a large amount of money in it.

Infertile eggs will keep in good condition several months, even in summer, if handled properly. Gather

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er them twice a day and store them in a cool, dry cellar or other similar place. Don't allow them to become damp. Turn them over once a week.

Mixed breeds produce mixed grades of eggs, some large, others small; some white, others brown. If you have mixed breeds you should at least separate the white and the brown eggs before sending them to market. Sell the brown eggs to one customer and the white eggs to another.

For producing fertile eggs, guaranteed to hatch out strong, vigorous chickens in the early spring, not more than ten hens should be provided for one male. After May first separate the male from the hens, and they will produce infertile eggs, which keep better in hot weather.

THE WEEK IN COTTON MARKET.

(By Walter Parker.)

New Orleans, March 21.—Return of cold weather to the early cotton producing sections was the most important development in the cotton market this week, but greater prominence was given the final census report of ginnings for the season of 1914-15, plus 639,795 bales of lint, a total of 14,604,776. Estimates of consumption range between 14,750,000 and 15,000,000 bales. The average grade of this season's crop is below the normal, consequently the loss by reason of lighter bales is augmented by excessive waste when spinners work up this season's cotton.

The lint report sheds some additional light on the quality of the supply of seed obtained from the 1913-14 crop. Most people believe the quality of the seed carried over into 1914-15 is very poor. In certain sections the supply of desirable

seed is known to be very small. But the lint returns do not seem to indicate poor seed over the belt as a whole. This year 7.56 tons of seed were required to make one bale of lint, as against 7.60 tons last year. The Texas figures are 6.60 tons this year, as against 6.46 tons last year. So it would seem that the poor seed are mostly in Texas. Choice linters are now quoted at 5.1-2 cents, and low grade linters at 1.3-4 cents in the New Orleans market.

Cold weather on March 20 over the early producing sections disposes of all hope for an early start. This has, of course, given rise to the belief that less new cotton will come into sight in July and August this year than last. If such proves to be the case, the commercial crop, as per Hester, will drop below the total ginnings and linters, which aggregate 14,604,776 bales.

Meanwhile, spinners' takings continue to run larger than the average supply per week for the remainder of the season, and now stand at 10,125,000 bales, as against 9,863,000 bales to this date last year.

While the world's visible supply of American cotton is some 200,000 bales greater than last year, it is 500,000 bales less than two years ago at this time.

Exports to date amount to 7,400,277 bales, or 400,000 bales greater than to even date last year.

At the close Friday the May delivery was quoted at 12.67 at New Orleans, and 12.15 at New York.

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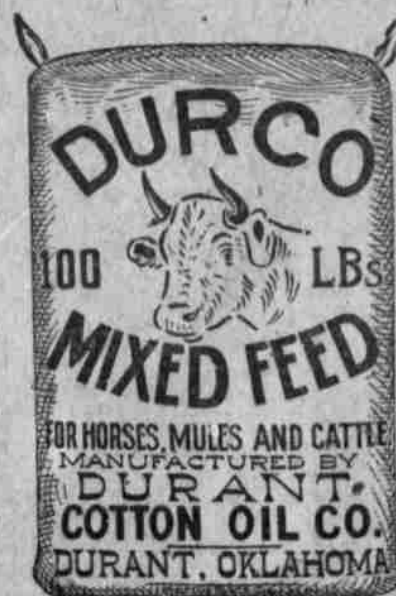
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